clined to boast of having been born in a log cabin even though he was born in a mansion with a silver spoon in his mouth. The interest of some middle-class Americans in European titles, dubious royal arms, German barons, French counts, British lords, or Russian and Georgian princes does not belie the democratic spirit of American society. Those are bright rattles, harmless exotic toys. Even silly people in America do not take them as seriously as in Europe, and those who do take them earnestly belong to the exclusive circle of irremediable fools whose opinions do not count.

When, after many years in the United States, we revisited Europe and were asked about the American national character, we could only repeat what de Tocqueville had told his countrymen after his visit to the United States. We stressed the feeling of social equality as the main difference between the New World and the Old and pointed out the contrast between the stratified society in Europe and the classless society in the United States.

RESPECT FOR WORK

The most striking manifestation of the deeply rooted feeling of social equality in this country is respect for work—work of any kind, including manual labor. The European concept of democracy, born in ancient Greece, has been rather limited in this respect. Originally, it excluded from citizenry those who performed any kind of manual work or were engaged in any economic activity other than usury or exploitation of work of others, and it bestowed political rights only on those who were rich enough to devote all their time to politics, the military arts, and "virtue." The nineteenth century broadened the concept of democracy, but the old distinction between the working masses and higher classes of the society has outlived all reforms and revolutions in Europe. Even now one finds there a scale of occupations, and a man customarily engaged in a certain pursuit feels humiliated if he takes, even temporarily, a job with a lower rating. We motored in a private rented car in Greece. Our chauffeur, proud of his profession, was eager to have the car washed every other day but never did the washing himself—that would be degrading. Instead, he hired somebody else for the job.

The European refugees came to the American shores ready to accept clerical jobs but unprepared psychologically for manual work. Some quickly acquired another scale of values; others defended their prejudice to the bitter end. I remember a tragic case of the clash between these two attitudes in the 1930's, when jobs were scarce. A young refugee from Hitler's Germany, graduated in law from a Mid-